during the current year (during April-December, 1994) are coffee, floriculture products, sports goods, marine products, plastics & linoleum, other oress and minerals, cotton yarn fabrics, made ups and project goods etc. Export Promotion is a continuous process. Country- specific and cosamadity—specific measures are taken to boost export. Export preformance is continuously reviewed to improve performance.

MOU between India and USA

869. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether India has signed an MOU with the United States of America for setting up an macfe-US commercial alliance;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the MOU and how India is going to benefit from the arrangement; and

(c) when is the alliance going to be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commercial Alliance provides a framework for increased interaction between private sector enterprises in both countries for expanding business relations. The Alliance will be beaded by a Board made tip of private sector representatives to be nominated by US Commerce Secretary and Indian Commerce Minister. The Board will have two co-chairman, one from each side. The Board will invite private sector representatives to join and organise Business Alliances, to discuss commercial co-operation in specific sectors and implement trade/business development programmes-

(c) The MOU on the Alliance was signed on 16-1-1995. In terms of the MOU, the Alliance, is expected to become operative within 90 days of signing of tie MOU.

Balanced Foreign Trade

870. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether in the April-December, 19*4 period country's exports went up by 16.88 per cent but the imports rose by 23.92 per cent as reported in the Times of India dated 11-2-95; and

(b) when and how Government propose to balance the two policies to give a more or less balanced foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)-: (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) A prior belancing of imports and exports is not feasible under a liberalised trade regime. Increase in imports reflect increase in volume and unit value of a number of essential production inputs required by the Indian econemy. As regards exports, various measures have been undertaken to promote exporis iuciuding grant of tax-exemption on Export-profits, acess to cheaper Expon-crexiks and markets-development support for Export Promotion Coaneils, etc.

Coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

871: SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMBRCE be pleased to refer to UnStarred Question 3527 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22*nd* August. 1994 and State:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to extend coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if *so,* the programmes of the Coffee Beard in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMENCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Till date 10,404 ha. have been brought under coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. Under the 8th Plan, efforts are being made to expand coffee cultivation is non- traditional aress in